

BACKGROUND

Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from the Gaza Strip have undermined the living conditions of about two million Palestinians. Many of the restrictions, originally imposed by Israel in the early 1990s and also in 2000s, when Israel shut down the Gaza airport and safe passage between Gaza and West Bank, were intensified after June 2007, following the Hamas takeover of Gaza, the imposition of a blockade and the closure of the Rafah crossing with Egypt (Rafah reopened in 2018). These restrictions limit access to livelihoods, essential basic services and housing, disrupt family life, and undermine people's hopes for a secure and prosperous future. In recent months, OCHA has witnessed some easing of restrictions, such as the opening Kerem Shalom crossing on Fridays for the entry of Qatari-funded fuel for the Gaza Power Plant (GPP); an increase in the number of permits issued to Palestinians classified as business people; and the expansion of permissible fishing zone of Gaza coast to 15 nautical miles.



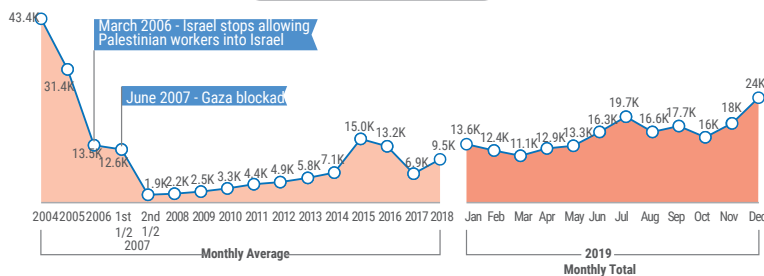
Interactive versions of the following charts are available at www.ochaopt.org/gaza-crossings/

MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

EREZ CROSSING

- Opened on 27 days during daytime: from Sunday to Thursday, for the passage of Israeli-issued permit holders of all authorized groups (primarily business people, patients and companions, foreign nationals, private needs to travel abroad and aid workers); and, on Fridays, for urgent cases and foreign nationals.
- The number of exits in December (23,798) was 56 per cent above the monthly average between January and November 2019 (15,275) and the highest since the imposition of the blockade in 2007.
- The monthly average in 2019 was 49 per cent less the monthly average in 2005 and the highest recorded figure since 2005.
- Israel approved 60 per cent of the 2,198 applications submitted during December for the exit of patients referred to medical treatment in the West Bank and Israel; the rest were either rejected or not answered by the time of the medical appointments (WHO).
- The number of exits of patients and their companions (3,333) increased by 13 per cent, compared with the monthly average between January and November 2019 (2,948).
- The number of exits by "business people" increased by 73 per cent, compared with the monthly average between January and November (17,338 vs 10,000) and constitutes the largest category; some of the people included in this category are believed to be day labourers.
- The current number of "business people" (including reported labourers) with valid permits is 5,601 up from less than 2,000 in December 2018 (PA General Authority for Civil Affairs).

Crossings into Israel

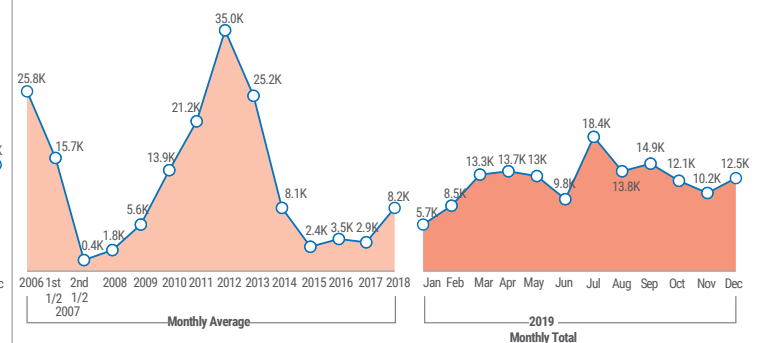


* The figures reflect number of times people crossed, but not the actual number of people crossing.

RAFAH CROSSING

- Opened in both directions during daytime hours on 22 days for the departure of pre-registered people.
- A total of 12,547 crossings (5,141 entries into Gaza and 7,406 exits) were recorded in December, three per cent above the monthly average between January and November 2019 (12,137).
- Since July 2018, Rafah crossing has been operating five days a week (from Sunday to Thursday) on a regular basis, following some four years of irregular and intermittent opening.

Crossings in both directions



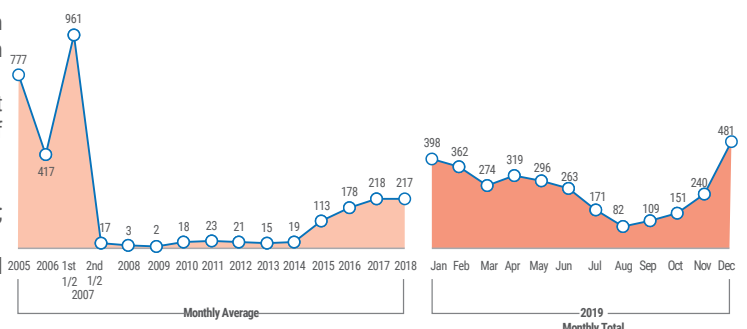
* Since July 2018, It has been operating five days a week (from Sunday to Thursday).

MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

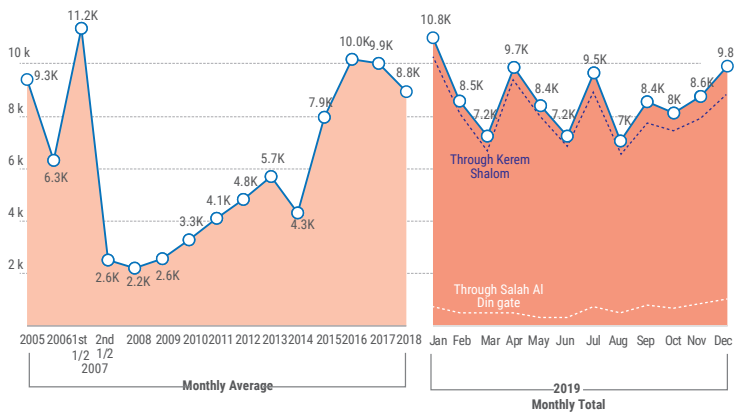
EXIT OF GOODS

- Authorized goods exited through the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel on 21 days.
- A total of 481 truckloads exited, 36 per cent above the figure recorded in December 2018 and the highest number since the imposition of the blockade in 2007.
- The monthly average of exiting truckloads during 2019 stood at 262, 73 per cent less than the equivalent figure in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to:
 - The West Bank:** 388 truckloads of agricultural produce; 11 of fish; 10 of clothing; 10 of non-edible consumables and 3 of furniture;
 - Israel:** 46 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap metal, furniture and garments;
 - Other destinations:** 13 truckloads of agricultural produce.
- Kerem Shalom is the only crossing allowing for the regular exit of goods.

Truckloads of goods exiting Gaza



Truckloads entering Gaza*

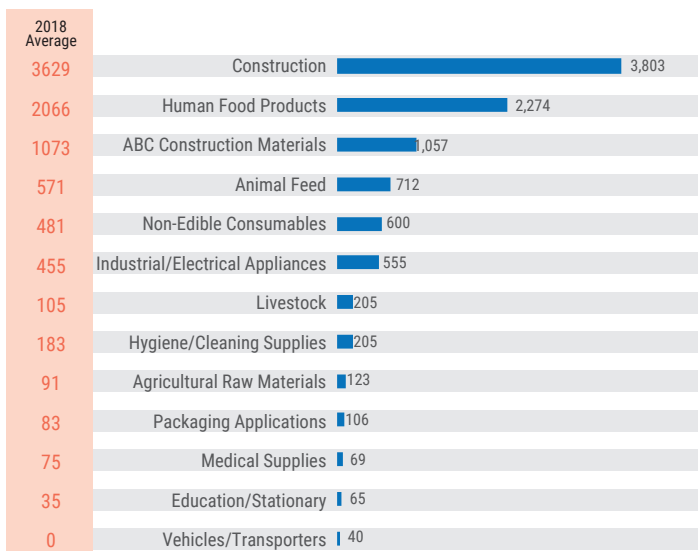


ENTRY OF GOODS

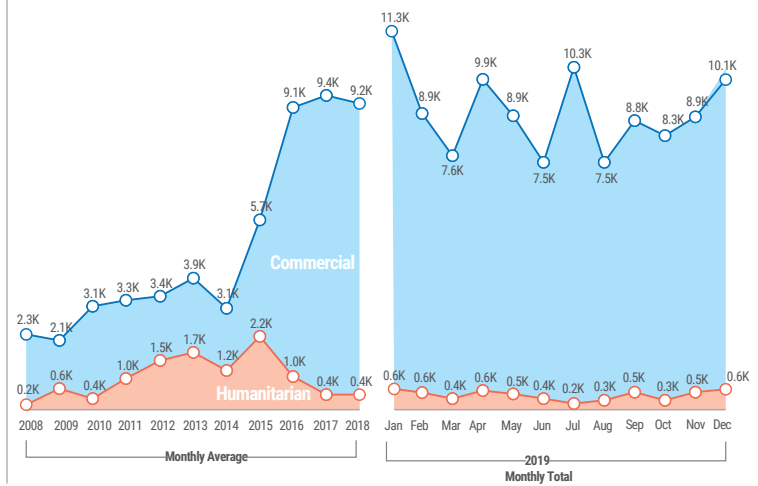
- The Kerem Shalom crossing opened for imports on 23 days (Sunday to Thursday), allowing the entry of 8,797 truckloads of goods, 11 per cent above the monthly average since the start of 2019 (7,888).
- In 2019, a monthly average of 8,597 truckloads entered Gaza, 23 per cent below the monthly average in the first half of 2007, prior to the blockade, although since 2007 Gaza's population has grown by 42 per cent (from 1.4 million to 1.99 million), source: PCBS.
- Some six per cent of the goods entered were for humanitarian agencies.
- 4,250 of the truckloads that entered through Kerem Shalom carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (48 per cent).
- An additional 1,017 truckloads of goods (excluding fuel) entered from Egypt through the Salah ad Din Gate, 70 per cent above the monthly average between January and November 2019 (597).

* Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.

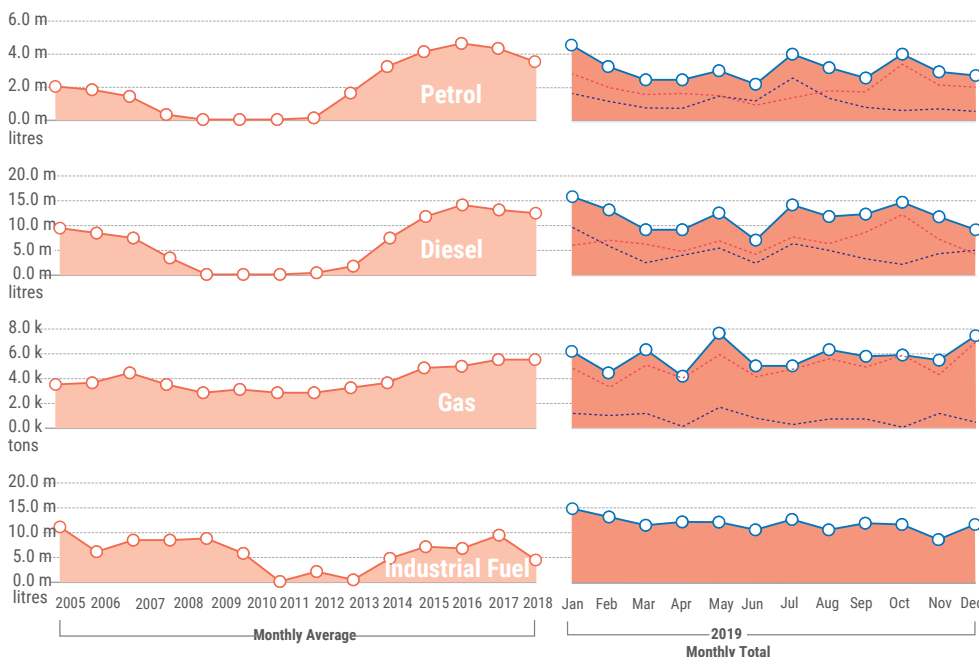
Goods imported in December 2019 (in truckloads)



Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)*



*Figures include truckloads carrying fuel.



FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom operated on 22 days for the import of fuel.

In total, this allowed the entry of:

- 5.1 million litres of diesel;
- 0.6 million litres of petrol;
- 518 tons of cooking gas; and
- 11.4 million litres of Qatari-funded fuel for the GPP.

Salah ad Din Gate operated on 14 days for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 4.4 million litres of diesel;
- 2 million litres of petrol; and
- 6,993 tons of cooking gas.

The volume of petrol and diesel that entered in December was 18 per cent below the monthly average between January and November 2019.

* The Friday openings are ongoing since October 2018.